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The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Seventy-second year

Identical notes verbales dated 26 April 2017 from the Permanent Mission of Jordan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

The Permanent Mission of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United Nations presents its compliments to the President of the Security Council and has the honour to attach herewith (see annex), on behalf of its Government in its capacity as Chair of the twenty-eighth ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at the summit level, six resolutions adopted by the League of Arab States on 29 March 2017, namely:

- Resolution 679, entitled "Solidarity with and support for Lebanon"
- Resolution 680, entitled "Developments in the Syrian crisis"
- Resolution 681, entitled "The Syrian refugee crisis"
- Resolution 682, entitled "Developments in the situation in Libya"
- Resolution 688, entitled "Iranian interference in the internal affairs of Arab States"
- Resolution 689, entitled "Arab position on the violation by Turkish forces of the sovereignty of Iraq"

The Permanent Mission of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United Nations requests the circulation of the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council, in connection with the item "The situation in the Middle East".

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Please recycle

Annex to the identical notes verbales dated 26 April 2017 from the Permanent Mission of Jordan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

The question of Palestine and developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict

Solidarity with and support for Lebanon

The Council of the League of Arab States at the summit level,

Having considered:

- The note of the Secretariat,
- The report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action,
- The recommendation made by the group charged with following up on the implementation of resolutions and commitments at the ministerial level at its second meeting held in Amman on 27 March 2017,
- Resolution 7738 (141st ordinary session) dated 9 March 2014 on the negative and dangerous repercussions of the Syrian displaced person crisis for Lebanon,
- The resolutions of the Council at the ministerial level, the most recent of which was resolution 8117, adopted at the 147th ordinary session on 7 March 2017,

Reaffirming the resolutions of the Arab summit conferences, the most recent of which was the Nouakchott summit (2016), in particular resolution 599 (25th ordinary session) adopted on 26 March 2014 at the Kuwait summit, concerning support for the Lebanese Army,

Noting the latest domestic, regional and international developments concerning Lebanon,

Recalling the relevant international resolutions, to which the Lebanese Government remains committed, particularly the entirety of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), which is based on Security Council resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978),

Decides

1. To welcome the election of General Michel Aoun as President of the Lebanese Republic, which marks a decisive step towards ensuring that Lebanon is able to address and overcome its pressing political, security, economic and social challenges and ensuring the proper functioning of Lebanese institutions in accordance with the Constitution; to welcome also the formation of a Government of national unity headed by Saad Hariri; to reaffirm full solidarity with Lebanon; to provide political and economic support to Lebanon, its Government and all of its constitutional institutions, in order to safeguard Lebanese national unity and Lebanon's security, stability and sovereignty over its entire territory; to emphasize the right of the Lebanese people to liberate or recover the Lebanese Shab'a Farms, the hills of Kafr Shuba and the Lebanese portion of the town of Ghajar; to uphold their right to use legitimate means to resist any aggression; and to emphasize the need to distinguish between terrorism and legitimate resistance against Israeli occupation, as the latter is a right enshrined in international instruments and the principles of international law, and therefore cannot be considered an act of terrorism;

2. To support Lebanon's call on the international community to implement Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), which is based on resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978), by putting a definitive end to Israel's violations and constant threats against Lebanon and its civilian facilities and infrastructure;

3. To welcome and endorse the conclusions adopted by the successive meetings of the International Support Group for Lebanon, the most recent of which was held on the margins of the seventieth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on 30 September 2015;

4. To commend the national role of the Lebanese Army and security forces in maintaining domestic stability and peace and supporting efforts to extend the sovereignty of the Lebanese State as far as its internationally recognized borders; to commend the sacrifices made by the Lebanese Army in its fight against terrorism and terrorist and takfirist organizations, particularly those mentioned in Security Council resolution 2170 (2014); to condemn the reprehensible attacks against several areas of Lebanon; to welcome the assistance provided to Lebanon by friendly countries, particularly the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; to urge all States to strengthen the capacity of the Lebanese Army to fulfil its responsibilities, as it is the cornerstone of security, stability and civil peace in Lebanon; and to condemn the abduction of Lebanese soldiers by terrorist organizations in August 2014 and demand their release in order to thwart the schemes of those wishing to ignite domestic and regional strife;

5. To condemn all of the terrorist acts, armed deployments and terrorist bombings that have targeted several areas of Lebanon, killing many innocent civilians; to reject all futile attempts to sow discord, undermine the foundations of coexistence, civil peace and national unity and disrupt security and stability; to emphasize the need to combat extremism, fanaticism, takfirism, sectarianism and interference in the internal affairs of Lebanon; to cooperate and coordinate fully in order to counter and eradicate terrorism, and eliminate its sources of funding; to cooperate in sharing information and expertise, and building capacity; and holding accountable the perpetrators of terrorist acts and crimes against humanity and those who incite violent and destructive acts and sectarianism, which endanger peace and security, and to tighten sanctions against them and take preventive measures in that regard;

6. To support the steadfast resistance of Lebanon to the ongoing Israeli aggression, including, in particular, the July 2006 aggression; to pray for God's mercy on the souls of the Lebanese victims; to stress that the Lebanese people's cohesion and unity in confronting and resisting the Israeli aggression are a guarantee of the country's future, security and stability; to characterize Israeli crimes as war crimes whose perpetrators must be prosecuted; to hold Israel fully responsible for its attacks and to compel it to compensate the Lebanese Republic and its citizens; to welcome United Nations General Assembly resolutions concerning the oil slick on Lebanese shores, the most recent being resolution 71/218 of 21 December 2016, which requires Israel to provide financial compensation for the damage caused to Lebanon when Israel bombed the Jiyeh electric power plant during the July 2006 war;

7. To condemn Israeli land, sea and air violations of Lebanese sovereignty, including:

- The Israeli penetration of Lebanese society through the planting of agents and propagation of espionage networks;
- Israeli violations of Lebanon's sovereign and economic rights in its territorial waters and exclusive economic zone and its oil and gas resources located in its

maritime areas, as well the recent threats that Israel made in writing following the opening of the exploration licensing round;

- The all-out electronic warfare that Israel is waging against the Lebanese Republic, as evidenced by the noticeable increase in the number of towers, antennas and devices for observation, spying and surveillance, all of which are intended for piracy and espionage against all Lebanese communication and data networks;

- Israel's refusal to hand over complete, accurate information and maps pertaining to the locations of all unexploded ordnance, including the quantity and the types of cluster bombs that it dropped indiscriminately on populated civilian areas during its attack on Lebanon in the summer of 2006.

8. To underscore the following points:

- There is a need to safeguard Lebanon's unique pluralistic formula, which is based on equality between Muslims and Christians, religious coexistence, dialogue, tolerance and mutual acceptance; to condemn its polar opposite, namely, the nihilist terrorist organizations, whose crimes against humanity mimic Israel's exclusionary policies based on the Jewish character of the State and its hostile actions against Muslims and Christians;

- Lebanese constitutional institutions must be supported in their policy of promoting Lebanon's Arab and international presence and spreading its message of cultural diversity, particularly in confronting Israel; minorities must remain indigenous and fundamental components of the social fabric of the States in the region; minority rights must be safeguarded and attacks against minorities prevented; and crimes committed against minorities must be characterized as crimes against humanity;

- The constitutional institutions of Lebanon must be supported in complying with their constitutional obligation to reject resettlement and uphold the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes; and the Palestinian people and leadership deserve credit for their unequivocal and consistent rejection of the resettlement of Palestinian refugees in host countries, particularly in Lebanon. States and international organizations must shoulder fully their responsibilities and contribute regularly and without interruption to the funding of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. They must also provide further funding for the reconstruction of the Nahr el-Bared camp, pay to the Treasury of the Lebanese State the sums owed for electricity and infrastructure depletion and compensate private property owners on whose land in Lebanese territory temporary camps were established;

- The Lebanese Government complies with the authoritative international resolutions and is striving to uncover the truth regarding the assassination of the late Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri and members of his entourage, and it is doing so without politicization or reprisal and in a manner that would not adversely affect the stability, unity and civil peace of Lebanon;

- The Lebanese Government must be supported in its efforts to follow up on the disappearance of Imam Musa al-Sadr and his two associates, Sheikh Muhammad Ya'qub and the journalist Abbas Badruldin, in order to free them, to hold accountable officials of the former Libyan regime, and to close the case.

9. To welcome the following:

- The reaffirmation by the President of the Republic in his inauguration speech of the unified position of the Lebanese people and of his commitment to the country's domestic tranquillity, which protects it against the fire that is raging

around it in the region. The Council also welcomes the commitment he made to respect the charter of the League of Arab States, in particular article 8 thereof, and welcomes the adoption by Lebanon of an independent foreign policy that is founded on the supreme interest of Lebanon and respect for international law;

- The efforts of the Lebanese Government and people, despite the country's limited resources, to host displaced Syrians; to emphasize the need to assist Lebanon in that regard, to share the burden, including the numbers of refugees involved, and to stem the growth of the problem; to emphasize that the presence of those displaced persons in Lebanon is temporary, in the light of Lebanon's categorical rejection of absorption of refugees into the societies of the host countries and its desire for this issue to be given top priority in any proposals to resolve the Syrian crisis given the existential threat that it poses to the country; to make every effort to ensure their safe return to their homes as soon as possible, which is the only sustainable solution to the Syrian refugee problem in Lebanon; to commend the Lebanese Government's intensive efforts to reduce the number of displaced Syrians in Lebanon and to guarantee the security of both Lebanese and Syrians; and to reduce the burden borne by the Lebanese people and economy, as Lebanon finds itself on the brink of a social, economic and security cataclysm that endangers its very existence;

- The initiative taken by Lebanon to appeal to the International Criminal Court prosecutor to bring charges in respect of Israel's war crimes in Gaza and the ongoing crimes against humanity committed by terrorists in Iraq;

- The efforts of the Lebanese Government to consolidate macroeconomic stability and maintain monetary stability, and the commitment of the Government to act immediately to address the chronic problems that afflict all Lebanese;

- The vision of the Lebanese Government, which links economic growth to the improvement and expansion of the social safety net, health care and education for all Lebanese;

- The initiation of measures by the Government in connection with the licensing round for oil exploration and extraction and the promulgation of the necessary implementing decrees;

- The efforts of the Lebanese Government to build a State of law and institutions by setting out an overall national strategy for countering corruption, strengthening the independence of the judiciary, reinvigorating the supervisory agencies and enhancing the role played by women political and public life;

- The tireless and ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States in support of the Lebanese Republic, in consultation with the Arab States, Lebanese constitutional institutions and various political forces, with a view to enhancing stability and promoting sustainable economic growth in Lebanon, which will safeguard the unity, security and stability of country, and enable it to address threats.

(Resolution 679 — 28th ordinary session — third meeting — 29 March 2017)

Developments in the Syrian crisis

The Council of the League of Arab States at the summit level,

Having considered:

- The note of the Secretariat,
- The report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action,
- The recommendation made by the group charged with following up on the implementation of resolutions and commitments at the ministerial level at its second meeting held in Amman on 27 March 2017,

Recalling previous resolutions of the League of Arab States at the summit level, including resolution 554 of the Baghdad summit (23rd ordinary session) dated 29 March 2012, resolution 580 of the Doha summit (24th ordinary session) dated 26 March 2013, resolution 600 of the Kuwait summit (25th ordinary session) dated 26 March 2014, resolution 623 of the Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, summit (26th ordinary session) dated 29 March 2015 and resolution 646 of the Nouakchott summit (27th ordinary session) dated 25 July 2016; the resolutions of the Council at the ministerial level in that regard, of which the most recent was resolution 8120 (147th ordinary session) dated 7 March 2017; resolution 8106 of the Council (extraordinary session) dated 19 December 2016; resolution 8105 of the Council at the permanent representative level (extraordinary session) dated 15 December 2016; and the statements of the ministerial committee on the situation in Syria,

Reiterating its total solidarity with the Syrian people in the face of the serious violations perpetrated against them, which threaten their existence and the lives of innocent civilians,

Reaffirming its full commitment to supporting the aspirations of the Syrian people for freedom, justice and equality, and their inalienable right to choose a system of governance that will enable them to realize their hopes and aspirations to establish peace and security throughout Syria,

Welcoming again the efforts of the International Syria Support Group to create conditions conducive to the resumption of negotiations between the opposition and the Syrian Government towards the formation of a transitional governing body with full executive authority, in accordance with the communiqué of the first Geneva conference of 30 June 2012; the two statements issued by the Support Group at Vienna on 30 October 2015 and 14 November 2015, both of which were endorsed by Security Council resolution 2254 (2015); the Group's Munich statement of 11 February 2016, which was endorsed by Security Council resolution 2268 (2016); and the Group's Vienna statement of 17 May 2016, all of which seek to fulfil the aspirations of all Syrian groups and factions,

Decides

1. To reiterate its abiding commitment to preserving the sovereignty, unity, stability and territorial integrity of Syria, based on the Charter of the League of Arab States and its principles;

2. To reiterate its firm position that the only possible solution to the Syrian crisis is a political solution achieved through an inclusive political process that meets the aspirations of the Syrian people, in accordance with the communiqué of the first Geneva conference dated 30 June 2012 and the resolutions adopted and communiqués issued in that regard, particularly Security Council resolution 2254 (2015); to welcome the resumption of the Geneva discussions on 23 February 2017 under the aegis of the United Nations; and to call upon the League of Arab States to

cooperate with the United Nations in order to ensure the success of the United Nations-sponsored Syrian negotiations aimed at ending the conflict and establishing peace and stability in Syria;

3. To express its profound concern at the effects of ongoing military action in a number of parts of Syria, despite the cessation of hostilities agreement that was concluded on 29 December 2016; to call upon the actors that have not implemented the above-mentioned agreement to abide by the arrangements aimed at reinforcing the ceasefire and the cessation of hostilities, in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions; to welcome Security Council resolution 2336 (2016) of 31 December 2016, which calls for a ceasefire in Syria, and international efforts to consolidate the ceasefire, which is an important step towards achieving a political solution in accordance with the communiqué of the first Geneva conference and Security Council resolution 2254 (2015); and to take note of the efforts being made at the Astana meetings to consolidate the ceasefire;

4. To urge the International Syria Support Group to redouble its efforts and continue striving to implement the communiqué of the first Geneva conference dated 30 June 2012, the statements issued by the Support Group at Vienna on 30 October and 14 November 2015 and 17 May 2016, and the Munich statement of 11 February 2016, and to work for compliance with the principles and mechanisms agreed to and set forth in those statements, in particular those mechanisms that pertain to reinforcing the ceasefire and cessation of hostilities, and providing humanitarian assistance, and to create an atmosphere conducive to the successful conclusion of the negotiations being conducted in Geneva under the aegis of the United Nations with a view to the formation of a transitional governing body with full executive authorities;

5. To condemn and reject the Syrian regime's atrocities against the defenceless civilian population in Aleppo and its countryside, and against Syrian citizens in all parts of Syria; and to regard the ongoing aerial bombardments, massacres and crimes committed by the regime in Aleppo and other Syrian cities as a blatant violation of the Geneva Conventions and international humanitarian law;

6. To condemn terrorist operations and crimes committed against civilians in various parts of Syria by such terrorist organizations and groups as Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the Nusrah Front, which is affiliated with Al-Qaida, and other terrorist organizations;

7. To request the Group of Arab States in Geneva to coordinate closely with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to take all necessary measures to halt the ongoing human rights violations being perpetrated by the Syrian regime, including by providing the necessary protection to children and women, and preventing hospitals and civilian institutions from being targeted, in accordance with international humanitarian law;

8. To welcome the positive outcomes of the expanded meeting of the Syrian opposition held under the aegis of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Riyadh on 8 and 9 December 2015, and previous meetings of the Syrian opposition parties in Cairo and Moscow aimed at consolidating the Syrian opposition's vision of steps needed for a political solution to the Syrian crisis through a Syrian-led political process on the basis of the communiqué of the first Geneva conference, the statements of the International Syria Support Group and the relevant Security Council resolutions;

9. To commend His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait, and the State of Kuwait, for hosting the first, second and third donor conferences in support of the humanitarian situation in Syria held in Kuwait in 2013, 2014 and 2015, and participating in the fourth conference held in

London in 2016, in the course of which it has contributed a total of $1.6 billion; to welcome the role of Kuwait, which has taken it upon itself to play a leading role in the humanitarian response to the Syrian crisis, in organizing the fifth donor conference in support of the humanitarian situation in Syria, which is set to be held in April 2017 in Brussels under the aegis of the European Union; and to call on donor States to fulfil promptly the pledges made at the London conference in support of the humanitarian situation in Syria, in particular those related to providing the necessary support to Syria's neighbouring Arab States and other Arab States that are hosting Syria refugees and displaced persons, in order to help them bear the burdens of providing relief and urgent humanitarian aid;

10. To request the Secretary-General of the League to continue consultations and contacts with the United Nations Secretary-General and his Special Envoy for Syria, and with the relevant stakeholders, to intensify efforts to create a climate conducive to the resumption of the Geneva rounds of negotiations aimed at determining the steps needed for a transitional political solution to the Syrian crisis, in accordance with the communiqué of the first Geneva Conference dated 30 June 2012, the statements of the International Syria Support Group, and the relevant Security Council resolutions;

11. To request the ministerial committee on Syria and the Secretary-General to continue efforts and consultations on the situation in Syria with the relevant regional and international parties, and to report on the outcomes of those efforts at the next session of the Council of the League at ministerial level.

(Resolution 680 — 28th ordinary session — third meeting — 29 March 2017)

– Lebanon stresses the policy of non-involvement in internal conflicts in brotherly Arab States, and calls for the adoption of consensual political solutions, in order to preserve the unity, sovereignty and stability of the Arab States and to fulfil the aspirations of their peoples.

The Syrian refugee crisis

The Council of the League of Arab States at the summit level,

- Having considered the note of the Secretariat,
- Based on resolutions of the Council at various levels,
- In the light of the political, security and social implications of the ongoing crisis in Syria, which affect and continue to place burdens on Syria's neighbouring States and the other Arab States hosting Syrian refugees,
- Expressing its utmost appreciation for the aid operations and humanitarian assistance provided by Arab and other States at the governmental and popular levels, which have contributed greatly to alleviating the suffering of our Syrian brothers both inside Syria and in refugee camps in Arab States,

Decides

1. To charge the Council of the League at the ministerial level with putting in place a specific mechanism to assist the Arab States neighbouring Syria and other Arab States hosting Syrian refugees and persons forcibly displaced to those States, in order to enable them to manage the various burdens entailed by hosting those refugees;

2. To underscore that the presence of Syrian refugees on the territories of the host States is temporary, and that conditions must be created for their return to their home countries as soon as possible through collective action to rehabilitate those refugees so that they can take part in rebuilding their countries and overcoming difficulties and obstacles left behind by years of war;

3. To urge the international community, and in particular donor countries and institutions, to carry out their responsibilities and provide more support to States hosting Syrian refugees, in order to keep pace with the magnitude of the burdens being borne by those States.

(Resolution 681 — 28th ordinary session — third meeting — 29 March 2017)

Developments in the situation in the State of Libya

The Council of the League of Arab States at the summit level,

Having considered:

- The note of the Secretariat,
- The report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action,
- Resolution 647 (27th ordinary session), adopted on 25 July 2016 at the Nouakchott summit,
- The previous resolutions of the Council at the ministerial level on this topic, the most recent of which was resolution 8121, adopted at the 147th ordinary session on 7 March 2017,
- The recommendation made by the group charged with following up on the implementation of resolutions and commitments at the ministerial level at its second meeting held in Amman on 27 March 2017,

Reaffirming the need to honour the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Libya; protect its citizens; preserve its political independence; and reject foreign and military intervention in Libyan affairs,

Decides

1. To reaffirm the need to honour the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Libya; to reject any foreign intervention unless it is done pursuant to the request of and in coordination with the Presidency Council of the Government of National Accord; and to express its deep concern about the proliferation of the activities of terrorist groups in Libya;

2. To reaffirm the Joint Communiqué on Libya of 22 September 2016 issued on the margins of the seventy-first session of the United Nations General Assembly;

3. To call for a political solution to the crisis in Libya achieved through inclusive dialogue and national reconciliation, as the only way out of this crisis; to reaffirm the Council's support for full implementation of the Libyan Political Agreement signed in Skhirat on 17 December 2015; and to categorically reject a military solution, which would have a negative impact on the security and stability of Libya;

4. To reiterate its support for the political dialogue being conducted under the aegis of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for Libya and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the League of Arab States;

5. To call for the lifting of the freeze on Libyan funds held in foreign banks and all other frozen Libyan assets, which belong to the Libyan people and should be used for their benefit and to meet their needs at such time as the Presidency Council deems appropriate, in accordance with paragraph 18 of Security Council resolution 1970 (2011) and paragraph 20 of Security Council resolution 1973 (2011);

6. To call for political and material support to be provided to the Presidency Council of the Libyan Government of National Accord, as the sole legitimate Government of Libya, and for support for and communications with parallel institutions to be refrained from; and to call on States to provide urgent assistance for the full implementation of the Libyan Political Agreement, to provide support for the rehabilitation of civilian, military and national institutions operating under the leadership of the Presidency Council, to provide those institutions with expertise and tools in areas identified by the Presidency Council of the Government of

National Accord as essential to carrying out its pressing responsibilities, and to comply with the relevant Security Council resolutions, of which the most recent were resolutions 2259 (2015) and 2278 (2016);

7. To express deep concern over the security challenges and terrorist threats faced by Libya, and to urge the consolidation of Libyan forces under the civilian leadership of the Presidential Council as the only way to restore stability and peace to Libya;

8. To call on the Presidency Council, the House of Representatives, the Central Bank of Libya and other Libyan national economic institutions to work together towards agreement on implementing solutions to Libya's economic problems; to take note of the communiqué on Libya issued in Rome on 17 November 2016; to reaffirm relevant Council resolutions on the illegal export of petroleum, emphasizing that Libyan oil facilities and resources must be kept out of any military conflicts so that the Libyan National Oil Corporation in Tripoli can carry out its responsibilities with respect to all oil facilities in Libya; and to support the measures necessary to strengthen the authority of the Presidency Council of the Government of National Accord over Libyan economic institutions, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2259 (2015);

9. To commend the role played by Libya's neighbouring States, who are the most affected by instability in Libya, and to invite them to continue to provide assistance for a United Nations-sponsored political settlement in Libya that preserves its unity and territorial integrity, protects its citizens and achieves security and stability, in coordination with the Presidency Council of the Libyan Government of National Accord;

10. To emphasize the role of the League of Arab States; to take note of the expansion of the troika proposed by the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States to coordinate the efforts of the League, the United Nations, the African Union and the European Union; to take note of the joint communiqué issued by the most recent meeting of that mechanism held on 18 March 2017, with a view to advancing efforts under the aegis of the United Nations, implementing the Libyan Political Agreement and supporting the Presidency Council of the Government of National Accord in addressing political, security and economic challenges;

11. To take note of the significant outcomes of the meeting of the African Union Commission's High-level Committee on Libya, held in Brazzaville on 27 January 2017, including its decision to expand its membership to include Libya's neighbouring States with a view to advancing United Nations efforts to resolve the crisis in Libya;

12. To commend the outcomes of the tenth ministerial meeting of Libya's neighbouring States held in Cairo on 21 January 2017, as well as previous meetings of neighbouring States held in Tunis, Algiers, Khartoum, Cairo, N'Djamena, Niamey and Malabo, and the eleventh meeting to be held in Algiers at the end of April 2017;

13. To express its appreciation and support for the initiative of President Béji Caïd Essebsi of the Republic of Tunisia aimed at achieving a political solution through inclusive dialogue and national reconciliation in Libya, which, following the Tunis Declaration adopted by the meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Tunisia, Algeria and Egypt on 19 and 20 February 2017, became a tripartite initiative in support of a comprehensive political settlement in Libya that creates conditions conducive to bringing together all the Libyan parties in a Libyan-Libyan national dialogue under United Nations auspices and based on the Libyan Political

Agreement signed in Skhirat on 17 December 2015, which provides a frame of reference for a political settlement of the Libyan crisis;

14. To call on States members to contribute actively to improving the deteriorating humanitarian situation by providing assistance to the Libyan people and supporting the emergency humanitarian response plan for Libya put in place by the United Nations in coordination with the Government of National Accord;

15. To request the Secretary-General to continue contacts and consultations with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for Libya, all Libyan parties and Libya's neighbouring States, and to emphasize the role of the League of Arab States, in order to overcome remaining obstacles to the implementation of the Libyan Political Agreement.

(Resolution 682 — 28th ordinary session — third meeting — 29 March 2017)

Iranian interference in the internal affairs of Arab States

The Council of the League of Arab States at the summit level,

Having considered:

- The note of the Secretariat,
- The report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action,
- The recommendation made by the group charged with following up on the implementation of resolutions and commitments at the ministerial level at its second meeting held in Amman on 27 March 2017,
- The press release issued by the fifth meeting of the meeting of the quadripartite Arab ministerial committee tasked with following up on the crisis with Iran, held in Amman on 27 March 2017,

Reaffirming resolution 652 (25 July 2015) of the Council at the summit level, as well as previous statements and resolutions adopted by the Council at the ministerial level on this topic, the most recent of which was resolution 8124 dated 7 March 2017 on Iranian interference in the internal affairs of Arab States,

Having heard the statements made by the heads of delegations and the Secretary-General,

Decides

1. To emphasize that cooperative relations between the Arab States and the Islamic Republic of Iran must be based on the principles of good-neighbourly relations and refraining from the use or threat of force; denounce Iranian interference in the internal affairs of Arab States, as that is a violation of the norms of international law and the principles of good-neighbourly relations and State sovereignty; and call on the Islamic Republic of Iran to refrain from taking provocative actions that undermine confidence-building and threaten security and stability in the region;

2. To reaffirm its condemnation of the breach of the inviolability of the Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Tehran and its Consulate-General in Mashhad, to hold the Islamic Republic of Iran responsible for the incidents, and to demand that it comply with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961) and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (1963);

3. To condemn and deplore the inflammatory and hostile statements that Iranian officials continue to make against Arab States, and to call on the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to cease making hostile statements or taking provocative actions and to halt media campaigns against Arab States, as such conduct is blatant interference in the internal affairs of those States;

4. To call on Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to end policies that exacerbate sectarian and confessional conflict and to refrain from supporting groups that promote such conflict in the States of the Arabian Gulf; and to demand that the Iranian Government should bring an end to its support for armed militias and parties within Arab States;

5. To condemn Iran's ongoing occupation of the three islands of the United Arab Emirates (Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa); and to express its support for all peaceful means and measures chosen by the United Arab Emirates to restore its sovereignty over the islands which, according to international law, are under occupation;

6. To condemn and denounce Iran's ongoing interference in the internal affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain by supporting terrorism, training terrorists and smuggling arms and explosives; provoking sectarian strife; making statements at various levels to undermine security, order and stability; and establishing terrorist groups in Bahrain that are financed and trained by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard and the terrorist Hizbullah party, as such conduct is contrary to the principles of good-neighbourly relations and non-interference in internal affairs set out in the Charter of the United Nations and prescribed by international law;

7. To commend the efforts of the security services of the Kingdom of Bahrain, which were able to thwart a terrorist plan in January 2016 and arrest the members of the terrorist organization that was meant to carry out the plan. That organization, which is supported by the so-called Iranian Revolutionary Guard and the terrorist Hizbullah party, was planning to commit a series of grave terrorist acts throughout Bahrain;

8. To denounce Iran's intervention in the Syrian crisis, which has had serious repercussions for the future of Syria and its sovereignty, security, stability, national unity and territorial integrity, and to emphasize that such intervention is detrimental to efforts to resolve the Syrian crisis through peaceful means in accordance with the first Geneva conference;

9. To denounce Iran's intervention in the internal affairs of Yemen and its backing of forces opposed to the legitimate Government of Yemen, a stance that has affected the security and stability of Yemen, neighbouring countries and the region as a whole;

10. To stress the importance of the initiative of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf contained in the letter from His Highness the Emir of the State of Kuwait to the President of Iran; and to call on Iran to engage constructively with that initiative with a view to strengthening security and stability in the region;

11. To underline the need for Iran to comply with Security Council resolution 2231 (2015); the need for effective mechanisms to put in place to verify compliance with the relevant agreement, conduct inspections and carry out oversight functions; the need for sanctions to be promptly and effectively reimposed should Iran fail to fulfil its obligations under the agreement; and the importance of Iran becoming a party to all regional treaties on nuclear safety and environmental protection;

12. To request the Secretary-General to continue coordinating with the Foreign Ministers of the quadripartite Arab committee composed of the United Arab Emirates (Chair), Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, with a view to continuing to develop an Arab action plan to respond to Iranian interventions in the Arab region; and mobilizing international support for Arab opposition to Iran's interventions;

13. To include an item entitled "Iranian interventions in the internal affairs of Arab States" on the agendas of Arab platforms of cooperation with international and regional groupings;

14. To request the relevant organs of the United Nations to include the question of Iranian interventions in the internal affairs of Arab States on their respective agendas, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, Article 2, paragraph 7, which prohibits interference in the internal affairs of States;

15. To request the Secretary-General of the League to monitor implementation of the present resolution and report to the Council at its next ordinary session.

(Resolution 688 — 28th ordinary session — third meeting — 29 March 2017)

- The position of the Republic of Iraq regarding the resolution on Iranian interventions in the internal affairs of Arab States, adopted by the Council of the League at the summit level and at the ministerial level at previous meetings:
  1. Iraq expresses its reservations regarding the title of the resolution.
  2. Iraq completely rejects paragraph 6 and 7 of the resolution because it supports the honourable national opposition, namely, the Lebanese Hizbullah party, which is part of the Lebanese Government that represents the Lebanese people.
- The position of the Lebanese Republic: Lebanon expresses its reservations regarding paragraphs 6 and 7, because they refer to Hizbullah as a terrorist party. This designation is unacceptable because it is not sanctioned by the United Nations and is contrary to the Arab Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, particularly in view of the distinction made between resistance and terrorism. Hizbullah is a key player in Lebanon and represents a large number of Lebanese. It also has substantial representation in Parliament, the ministries and the constitutional institutions of Lebanon. We support the other paragraphs of the resolution, although some of them infringe on the policy of non involvement adopted by the Lebanese Government, particularly paragraph 2, which condemns the breach of the inviolability of the missions of Saudi Arabia in Iran. We condemn any intervention in the internal affairs of Arab States. We have requested that the phrase "terrorist Hizbullah party" should be deleted from both paragraphs, so that we might be able to endorse the entire resolution without any reservations.
- The People's Democratic Republic of Algeria: In order to confront the mounting threat posed by terrorist organizations, Algeria calls for the international community to coordinate its efforts to combat such organizations in the context of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and on the basis of common goals. The international community should also follow the rules of international law, particularly by adhering to United Nations bulletins and lists with regard to the designation of terrorist groups, which do not include political parties that are recognized at the national and international levels, and that contribute to national political and social life. All actors, whether Governments or parties, must not interfere in the internal affairs of States, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the Charter of the League of Arab States.
- Note of the Republic of Tunisia: With regard to paragraphs 6 and 7 of the resolution, Tunisia recalls the position it expressed during the 145th, 146th and 147th ordinary meetings of Council at the ministerial level and the 27th ordinary session of the Council at the summit level, which stresses the following:
  - Tunisia rejects all forms of interference in the internal affairs of States and all practices that threaten the security and stability of the region. Tunisia strongly supports the security of the security of its fellow Arab States of the Gulf, and calls for all parties to resolve their difference through dialogue and peaceful means, and for adherence to the values of good-neighbourliness and peaceful coexistence.
  - Tunisia stresses that Hizbullah's contribution to the liberation of part of Lebanese territory from Israeli occupation does not give it or any other party the right to take any actions that jeopardize the security and stability of the region.

Arab position on the violation by Turkish forces of the sovereignty of Iraq

The Council of the League of Arab States at the summit level,

Having considered:

- The note of the Secretariat,
- The report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action,
- The recommendation made by the group charged with following up on the implementation of resolutions and commitments at the ministerial level at its second meeting held in Amman on 27 March 2017,

Reaffirming all resolutions of the League Council at Ministerial level, the most recent of which was resolution 8125 (147th ordinary session) dated 7 March 2017, and resolutions at the summit level, the most recent of which was resolution 653 (27th ordinary session) adopted at the Nouakchott summit on 25 July 2016,

Decides

1. To reaffirm the provisions of resolution 7987 of the Council of the League at the ministerial level, adopted by the Council at its extraordinary session on 24 December 2015, condemning the incursion of Turkish forces into Iraqi territory, which is a violation of Iraqi sovereignty and a threat to Arab security, and demanding that the Turkish Government withdraw its forces immediately and unconditionally;

2. To call on the States members of the League, in their bilateral relations, to request the Turkish Government to withdraw its forces from Iraqi territory in implementation of resolution 7987 of the Council of the League, adopted at its extraordinary session of 24 December 2015, and to raise the matter in its communications with States members;

3. To call on States members to request the Turkish Government to refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of Iraq and to stop taking such provocative actions, which undermine confidence-building and threaten the security and stability of the region;

4. To reiterate its support for the Iraqi Government in any measures it may take in accordance with the relevant principles of international law to ensure that the Turkish Government withdraws its forces from Iraqi territory, with a view to consolidating the sovereignty of the Government of Iraq over its entire territory;

5. To underscore the need for the continued inclusion of a standing agenda item entitled "Incursion of Turkish forces into Iraqi territory and halting Turkish interference in neighbouring Arab countries" in the agenda of the Council of the League of Arab States at the summit level until such time as those forces have fully withdrawn;

6. To request that the Secretary-General of the League continue to follow up on the implementation of resolution 7987 of the Council of the League, adopted at the extraordinary session of 24 December 2015, and to submit a detailed report to the Council at its next ordinary session;

7. To reiterate that the Arab member of the Security Council, the Arab Republic of Egypt, should continue to press for the withdrawal of Turkish forces from Iraqi territory and take all necessary measures until such time as those forces have fully withdrawn.

(Resolution 689 — 28th ordinary session — third meeting — 29 March 2017)

- The United Arab Emirates enters a reservation to the present resolution.
- The Kingdom of Bahrain enters a reservation to the present resolution.
- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia enters a reservation to the present resolution.
- The State of Qatar enters a reservation to the present resolution.